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Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Richmond K. Fletcher

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



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<http://archive.org/details/artistflinc>

RICHMOND K. FLETCHER
34 ANNAWAN ROAD
WABAN, MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. Herbert W. Jackson, Gen. Agt.,
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
100 Milk St., Boston, Mass.

Sept. 26, 1939

Dear Mr. Jackson : --

It occurs to me that the home office of the Lincoln National Life might be interested in acquiring the Lincoln portrait of which I am enclosing a newspaper reproduction.

This portrait has drawn very favorable comment from an art standpoint and from students of Lincolnia wherever it has been shown and would make an interesting and dignified office decoration. It shows the head in a new aspect and lighting, and I have attempted to bring out in the face certain characteristics which some of the other portraits seem to lack in some degree.

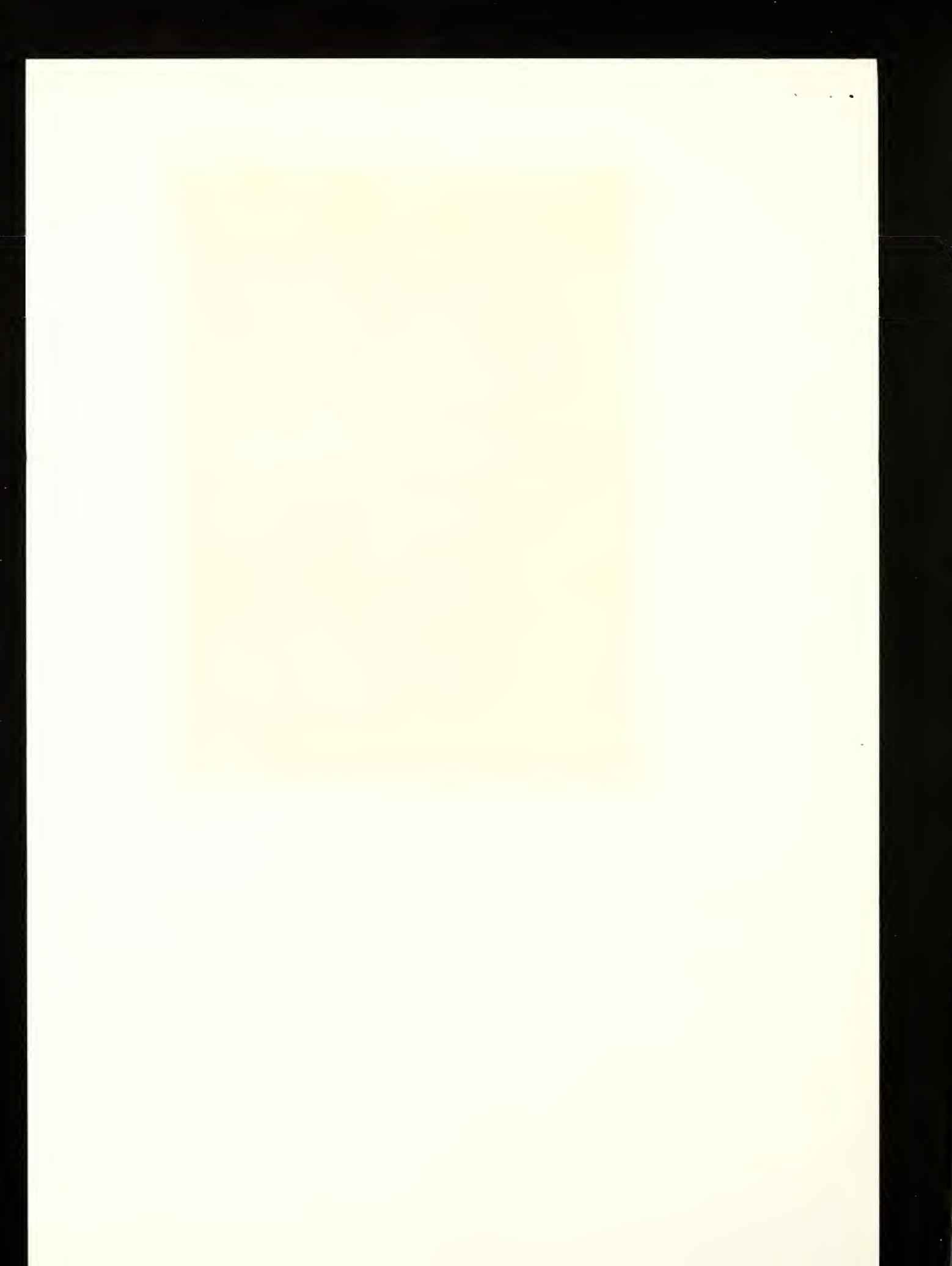
My thought is that in case you have not already seen it, I could bring the original to your home or office and then if you thought that your president, Mr. Hall, would be interested, I could write him, possibly with a word of introduction, or recommendation from you ?

The picture is of suitable size, and properly framed for hanging in a public building.

My phone number is CENter Newton, 3214-W.

Sincerely yours,

Richmond K. Fletcher



THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY

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INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

BOSTON OFFICE

TO Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director

DATE September 30th, 1939.

Lincoln National Life Foundation.

SUBJECT

Dear Dr. Warren:

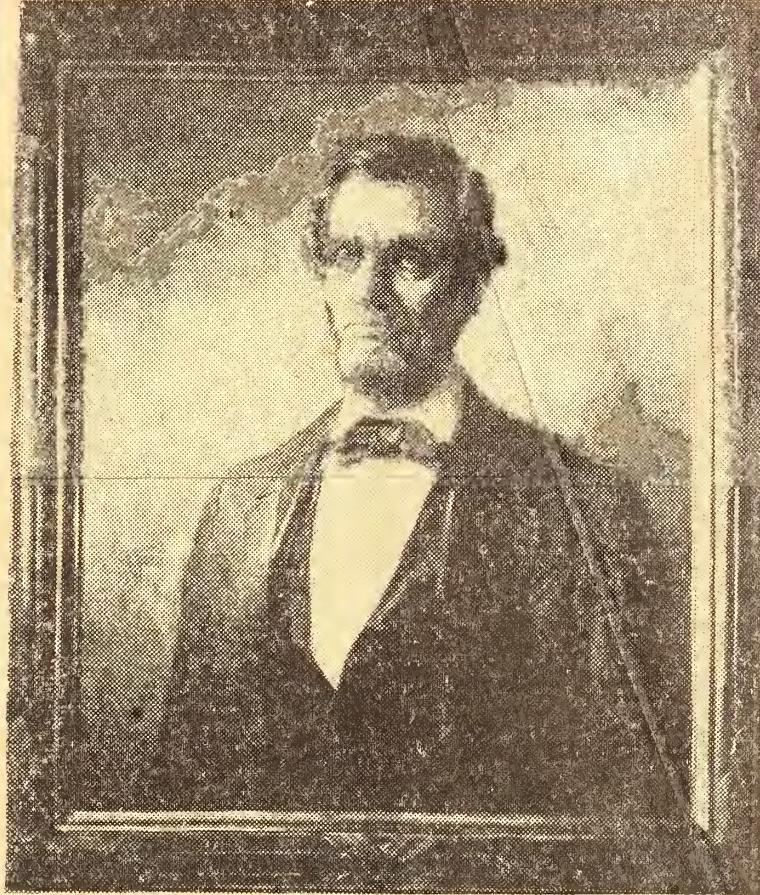
Attached hereto please find a letter from Mr. Richmond K. Fletcher of Waban, Massachusetts, together with the enclosure. If you are interested I would be pleased to hear from you, or you may, if you wish write to Mr. Fletcher direct.

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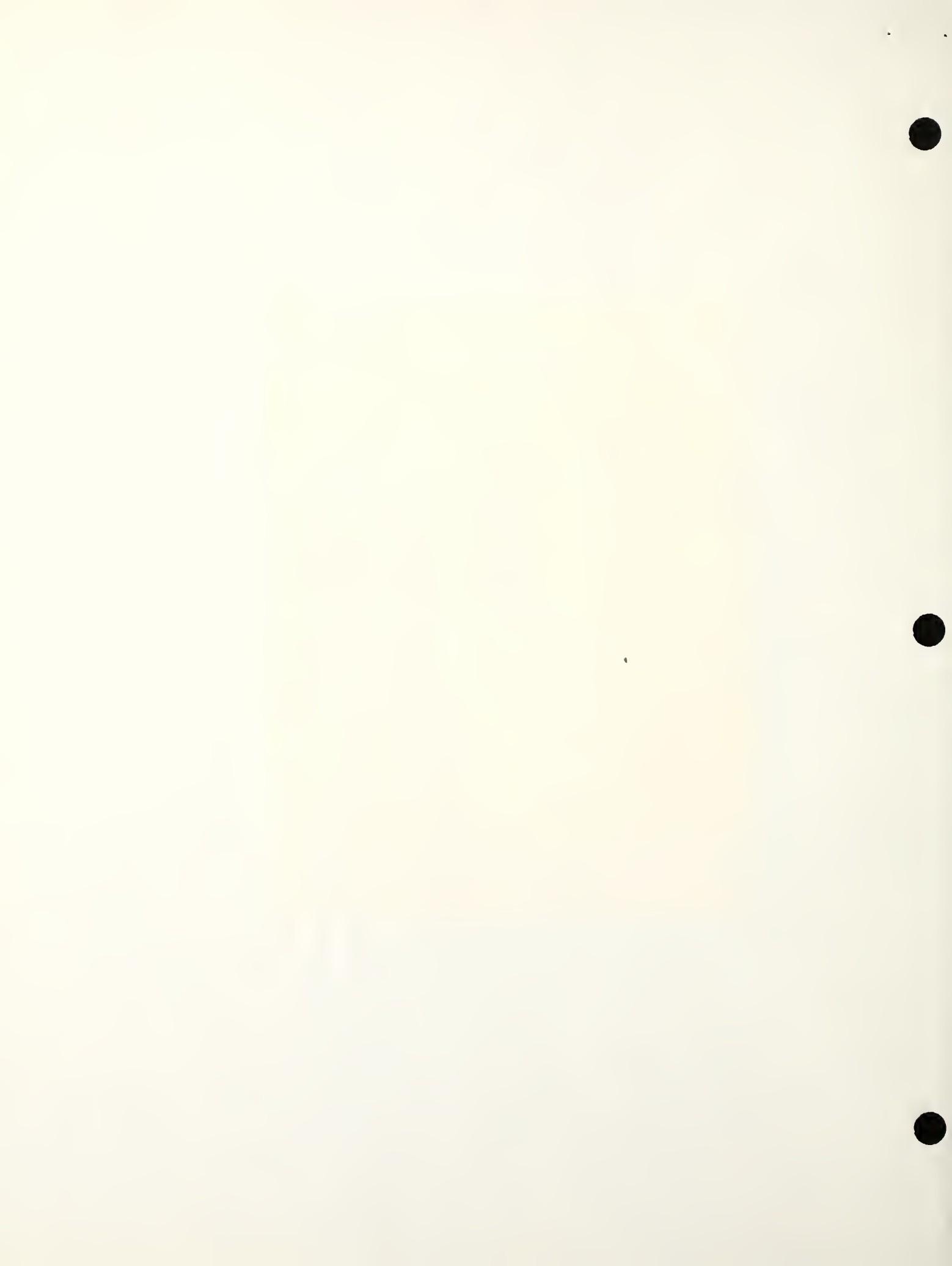
H. W. Jackson
General Agent.

Fletcher, Richmond K.

NEW PORTRAIT OF LINCOLN



By Richmond K. Fletcher, Waban artist. It was exhibited at the Lincoln Day dinner of the Middlesex Club.



October 11, 1939

Mr. H. W. Jackson
Boston Office

My dear Mr. Jackson:

We appreciate very much your calling to our attention the very excellent oil painting of Lincoln in the possession of Mr. Richmond K. Fletcher of Waban, Massachusetts.

Our appropriation for this type of Lincoln items is not sufficient, however, to think of acquiring this appreciative study of Lincoln.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

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RICHMOND K. FLETCHER
34 ANNAWAN ROAD
WABAN, MASSACHUSETTS

April 20, 1940

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My Dear Mr. Warren : --

In answer to your kind inquiry of April 18, for more detailed information about my portrait of Lincoln,- I am pleased to be able to send you the enclosed newspaper cut of this portrait.

Of course you realize that any portrait suffers in a black and white reproduction from a photograph, especially when the latter is taken without the use of a color filter, as this one was.

The head is life size, and the frame measures 31" x 37". Frame is in dull black, with gold leaf mouldings at inside, and outside edges -- all hand carved by the best frame maker in Boston.

I became intensely interested in Lincoln upon reading "Great Captain", by Morrow, and proceeded to gather all the portrait records I could find, which were very extensive. I also studied the original portrait in the State House in Boston. After careful comparative study of the pictorial material and all descriptive data available, I set out to paint a head which should have a different lighting than any other so far done, and should more strongly bring out the salient character of the man, as I feel it.

One gentleman, Mr. Philip W. Ayres, was born in the house across the street from the Lincolns and was brought up in intimate contact with the family. On seeing this portrait, he told me that it was the best portrait of Lincoln he had seen. In fact all who have seen it in my presence have said that it represents the man as they think of him. This includes a well known art critic and editor.

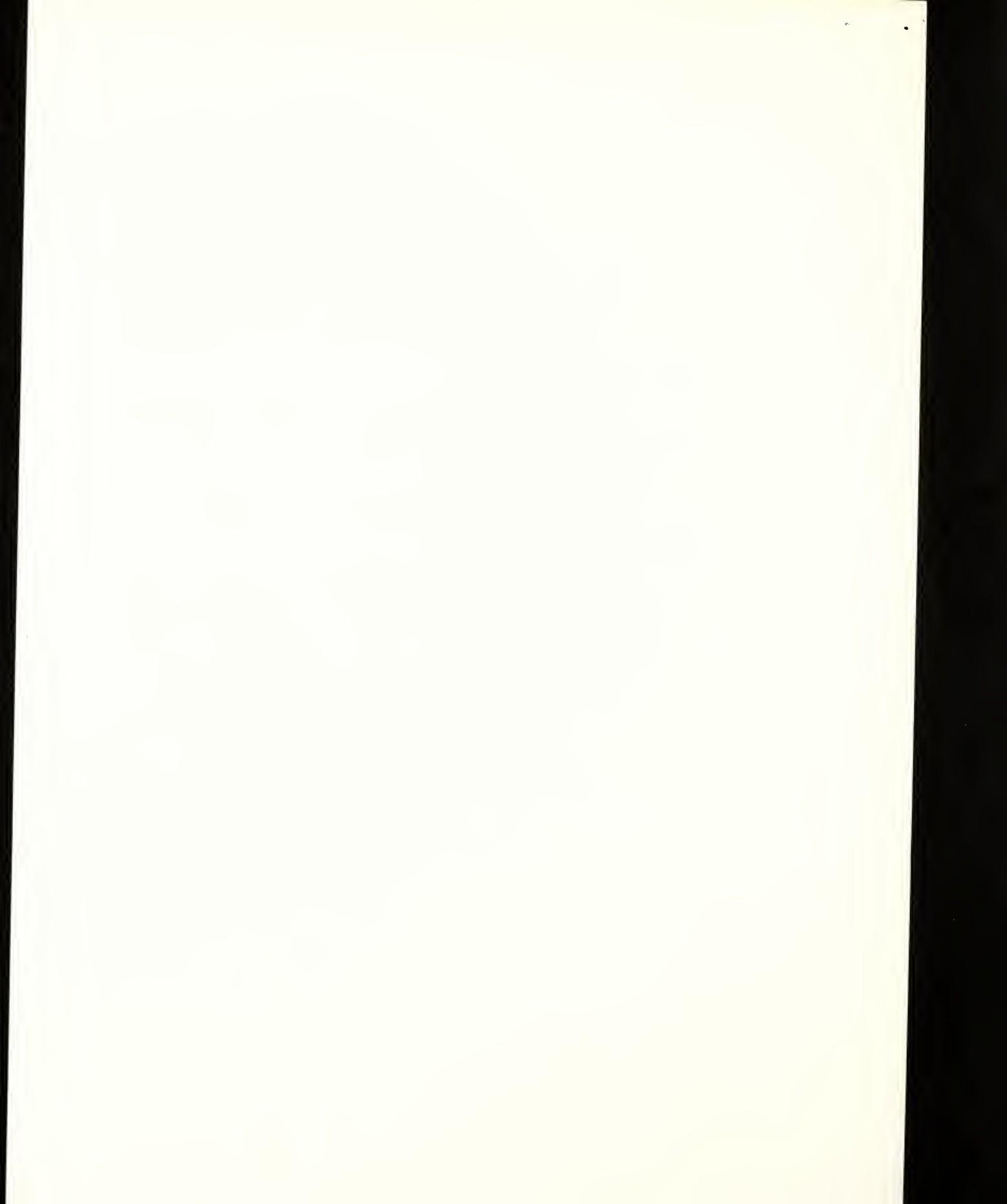
On the half-tone cut, you will see a blemish, which is in the paper and not in the original.

I should be glad to show the painting to the local Lincoln agent, who might get any disinterested, expert opinion he cares to use, in order to make a direct report to you.

I think it is worth five hundred, frame included.

Sincerely yours,

Richmond K. Fletcher



Mr. Warren.

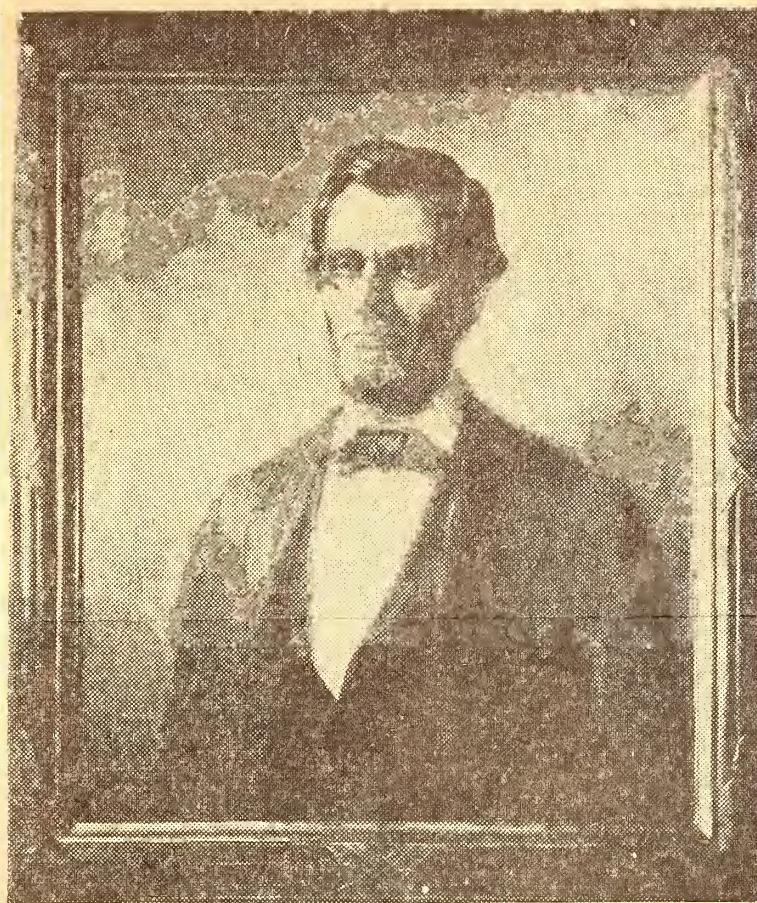
P. S. The Middlesex Club Dinner where the portrait was exhibited, was attended by about five hundred prominent Massachusetts Republicans who were, many of them, much interested in the portrait, and I heard no adverse criticism from them.

It was also on exhibition for a week in the window of Bigelow-Kinsard & Co., Boston's best known jeweler, where it aroused still further public interest and favorable comment.

J. K. F.



NEW PORTRAIT OF LINCOLN



By Richmond K. Fletcher, Waban artist. It was exhibited at the Lincoln Day dinner of the Middlesex Club.

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April 26, 1940

Mr. Richmond K. Fletcher
34 Annawan Road
Waban, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

While we think you have done a very fine study on Abraham Lincoln, I do not think we will be in a position to make the acquisition of the painting as our budget will not take care of such an expense.

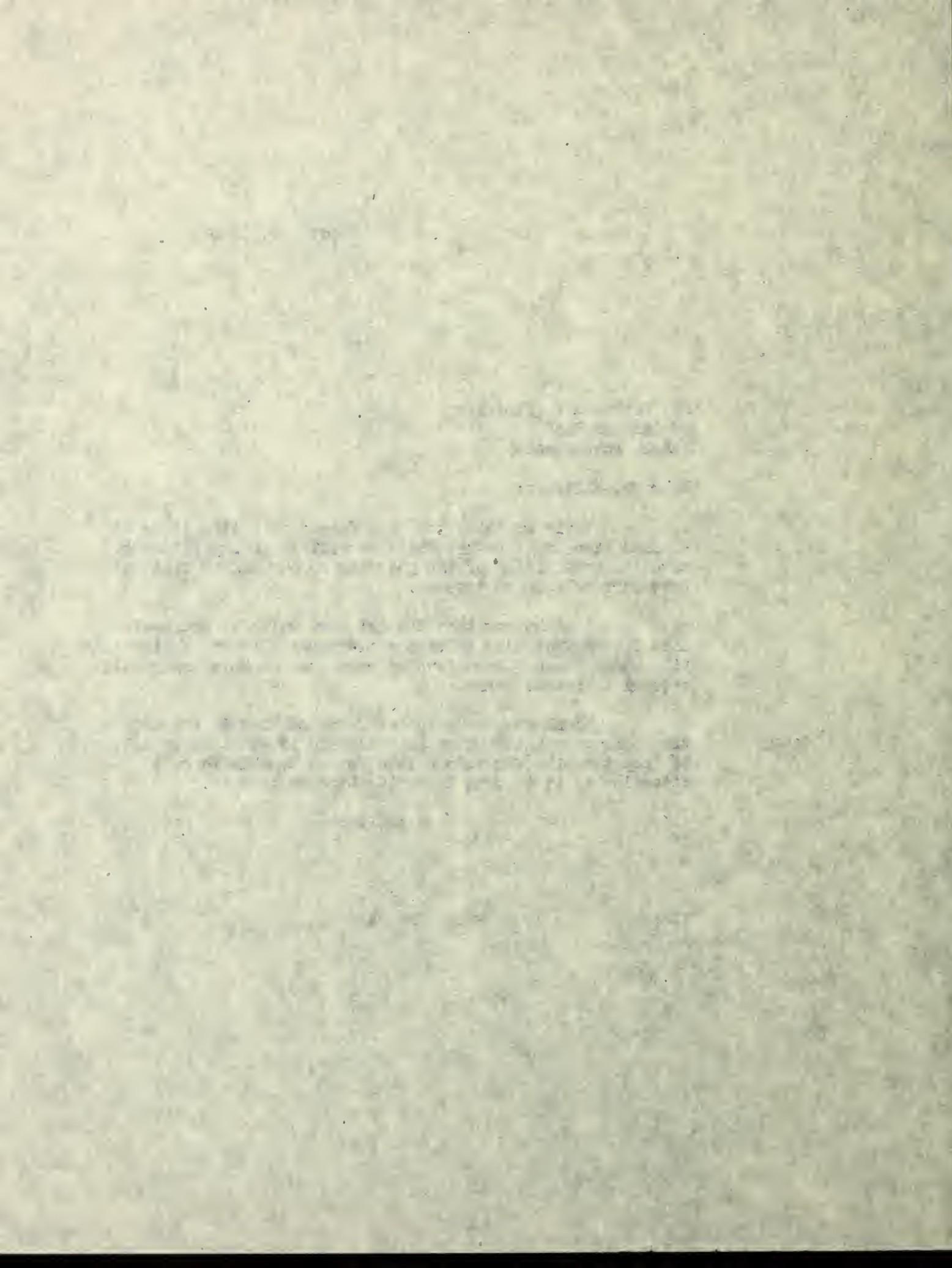
I might say that the art work which we are having done for us from time to time anticipates a study of Lincoln's life which has not been touched upon, and we have contributed several in recent years.

Thank you, nevertheless, for calling to our attention this very interesting painting and if we could be allowed to keep the clipping in our file we may be able to call attention to it to some inquiring Lincoln student.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director



Metabolism
Kichmire K.

DRAWDROP 19A

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